

fee-based scale as well as those with health insurance. The health center is the primary caregiver for over 4,000 patients annually, with nearly 32,000 patient visits each year. It provides school physicals, internal and family medicine, physical exams, disease screening, laboratory work and pharmaceutical assistance. It treats diabetes, hypertension, asthma, respiratory infections and so many other medical conditions. Without this health center in Prince William County, many of the facility's patients would be forced to use hospital emergency rooms for their primary care which cost all of us about \$6 billion a year, or they receive no care at all.

Mr. Speaker, in the weeks before the \$1.1 million grant for the Greater Prince William Community Health Center which was announced on March 2 as part of the stimulus funding, the center's management was actually preparing for an orderly and permanent shutdown of this vital facility. The economic crisis increased demand for health care services and local funding sources had frankly dried up. Nonetheless, the dedicated staff of health care professionals continued to do their jobs and continued to provide quality health care to the center's patients, even though they were not always certain they would ever receive a paycheck. The health center management desperately sought private and public funding to keep the center going, but the same economic crisis that was driving more patients to the health center was also taking its toll on this non-profit provider. At a time when the health center was anticipating a doubling of patients in need of its services, the future looked bleak. It's hard to describe the sense of relief I heard when I contacted the center's management to inform them that the Recovery Act had provided a new lease on life. Thanks to the Recovery Act, this outstanding community resource will not become another unfortunate casualty of the recession but instead will continue to provide much-needed cost-efficient health care to low- and moderate-income individuals and families. And because of this vote of confidence and this investment, they've been able to attract additional investment as well, ensuring their future.

I recently toured the Greater Prince William Community Health Center and had the opportunity to spend time with care providers and several patients. I met with William, a construction worker recently laid off due to the economic downturn. He injured his back on the job but after being laid off had no insurance to seek treatment for his constant, chronic pain. Thanks to the health center in Prince William County, he was able to see a doctor, received initial care, and was referred to the University of Virginia Medical Center for back surgery. In time, thanks to the center, William will recover, be able to return to work, and live a productive and hopefully pain-free life. I

also met Connie, who told me about her father's debilitating diabetes and how financial constraints placed his life in jeopardy. Connie heard about the center, brought her father there, and today he is on insulin with a much improved quality of life.

Thanks to the Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the hardworking staff at the Greater Prince William Community Health Center will continue to fill a critical need in my district in Virginia. This is only one of thousands of examples around our country of the Recovery Act at work, saving jobs and frankly saving lives.

Mr. Speaker, the Greater Prince William Community Health Center is not unique. Throughout America, the Recovery Act is having a positive impact on the lives of millions of Americans. While no one solution will cure the recession overnight, the Recovery and Reinvestment Act is one piece of the mosaic of actions this Congress has undertaken to restore our Nation's economic health, protect the well-being of the American people, and make sure that our economy gets moving again.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Good and gracious, Lord our God, today across this Nation, many celebrate Cinco de Mayo, marking the struggle of the Mexican people for freedom and independence.

We bless You and praise You, Lord, because these various devotions and festivities remind all of us of the large part immigration has played in the formation of this great country with diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

Mexican Americans, as so many before them, Lord, have shared their rich heritage with others while they have sought health, safety, and education for their children as well as political and cultural recognition.

Bless their deeply felt family values and religious convictions. We pray always for a greater integration into American life where all live free from fear, segregation and prejudice.

We ask Our Lady of Guadalupe to join us in our prayer for Your blessing upon all Hispanic Americans and especially upon our neighboring country of

Mexico. Grant peace and security both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THE MORTGAGE REFORM AND ANTI-PREDATORY LENDING ACT OF 2009

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, this week I am proud that the House of Representatives will be voting on H.R. 1728, the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act of 2009.

This legislation will make critical reforms to end the abusive and predatory lending practices that have left so many Americans facing foreclosure.

In my district in Orange County, California, we have seen the results of abusive and predatory lending too frequently as foreclosures have weakened our neighborhoods and our communities, and it has forced many of our people out of their homes. Most of these foreclosures are the result of "toxic loans" that were issued by several subprime lenders in Orange County, California.

For that reason, I am particularly pleased that H.R. 1728 will ensure that lenders make loans that benefit the consumer and prohibit lenders from steering borrowers into higher-cost loans.

In addition, the legislation will establish a simple standard that all institutions offering home loans must ensure so that borrowers can actually repay the loans they receive.

I am very pleased that we will be considering this bill, which addresses the reckless lending and lack of oversight, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

CALIFORNIA WATER

(Mr. CALVERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because California is in the middle of a water crisis. California's current drought is not like other droughts

because California is suffering from a devastating combination of a natural dry spell and a federally imposed dry spell.

In December 2007, a Federal judge ordered restrictions on water project operations in the delta to help protect threatened species, the delta smelt. The negative impact has been extraordinary. The restrictions have resulted in the loss of nearly one-third of the supply that 25 million Californians depend on from delta operations. Farmland throughout California's Central Valley is going fallow while farmers struggle to find work. In Southern California economic growth is being thwarted because any new construction is jeopardized by a lack of proven water supply.

There is no evidence that the federally imposed pumping restrictions have benefited the delta smelt. If this Congress is going to continue to give Federal agencies the authority to take actions that kill jobs and harm our economy for the benefit of a species, then the American people deserve clear evidence that these actions benefit the species.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING THE PINAL COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FOR FIGHTING BACK AGAINST THE DRUG CARTELS

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago a deputy with the Pinal County Sheriff's Office noted a speeding van and observed likely packages of marijuana through the window. After a brief car chase, the deputy was able to secure the van and found 476 pounds of marijuana. This successful bust is yet more evidence that our local law enforcement is playing a vital role in fighting back against the drug cartels.

I congratulate Sheriff Babeu and the entire Pinal County Sheriff's Department for this seizure, which will keep drugs out of our community.

Our local law enforcement in Arizona deserve recognition for a job well done. With more resources, they do even more to protect our borders and keep our communities safe.

RECOGNIZING MR. JEFF JACKSON

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it's with great pride that I rise to recognize Mr. Jeffrey Walter Jackson of the Sixth District of Georgia upon his retirement as Head of School for the Mount Vernon Presbyterian School in Sandy Springs, Georgia.

Jeff Jackson has been a dedicated and visionary leader. He challenges himself and all around him to dream big dreams, work diligently on positive goals, and inspires a servant's heart.

During his tenure, since 2002, at Mt. Vernon, Mr. Jackson introduced honors and advanced placement courses, expanded the sports program to 31 teams, and fostered varied activities including a debate team and the Fellowship for Christian Athletes. He oversaw the establishment of a new Upper School to serve 9th through 12th grade students and a 30-acre expansion of the campus.

In his faithful commitment to the values of Christian education, Mr. Jackson has been a role model for teachers, administrators, community leaders, but especially students. And now he will further his positive influence as the executive director of the Georgia Independent School Association.

Mr. Speaker, our community and this Congress commend Jeff Jackson for his continuing and exemplary service and extend to him our very best wishes in his new role.

PREDATORY LENDING

(Mr. KAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, to put our Nation on the road to recovery, we have to do several things: First, we have to begin to clean up the economic mess that we have inherited after the past 8 years. Secondly, we have to rewrite our laws to guarantee that everyone has a fair shake and a fair opportunity to make it in today's economy. And together we will.

Last week I was very proud to stand here and vote for the Credit Cardholder's Bill of Rights, and today I rise in favor of the Mortgage and Anti-Predatory Lending Act. This bill would help end the predatory lending that is a major factor in the many, far too many, home foreclosures now taking place.

The bill would prohibit lenders from steering their customers into higher-cost loans, would ensure that borrowers actually have the ability to pay back the money that they are taking out, and would establish a simple standard for all home loans.

I believe we have to work hard for people everywhere to guarantee that they can make it and keep their heads above water. Let's pass the Mortgage and Anti-Predatory Lending Act and build a better future for everyone.

MAKE R&D TAX CREDIT PERMANENT

(Mr. LEE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEE of New York. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President announced tax reforms that would pave the way for making the research and development tax credit permanent.

R&D is the lifeblood of our economy, and this tax credit provides companies with an incentive to invest in tech-

nology and expand their operations. In 2005, more than 70 percent of R&D tax credit dollars nationwide went toward wages for highly skilled jobs.

Since 1981, however, Congress has extended the credit 12 times with extensions as short as just 6 months. Retroactive extensions leave companies in uncertain circumstances for long periods of time beyond the expiration date.

This is why I have introduced bipartisan legislation with Mr. BOCCIERI of Ohio that would make the R&D tax credit permanent. Unlike other proposals to make the R&D tax credit permanent, H.R. 1545 would also offer a bonus tax credit for companies who manufacture their products in the United States.

We shouldn't wait to make the R&D tax credit permanent. We should act now to sustain the manufacturing base that is so critical to this country's future.

ENERGY

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the American Conservation and Clean Energy Independence Act of 2009, a bipartisan piece of legislation that extends our efforts from last Congress, the 110th Congress, with Congressmembers MURPHY, WALZ, CAPITO, WILSON, ABERCROMBIE, myself, and many others.

This legislation is to develop a new policy that is comprehensive in nature that will, one, reduce our dependency on foreign sources of energy and, two, develop the robust renewable portfolio that Americans want to see. This effort is common sense. It's PAYGO neutral. It would enhance our path toward energy reduction of our dependency on foreign sources and improve our national security.

I'm a firm believer that we have to use all the energy tools in our energy toolbox. This legislation does just that. In the near term, 1 to 10 years, choosing oil and gas and nuclear. In the intermediate, 10 to 20 years, building a robust, renewable portfolio that will give Americans an energy policy that we believe our Nation deserves.

CAP-AND-TRADE EXEMPTIONS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in the past, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle railed against the Bush administration for an energy policy they say was written by energy lobbyists and rewarded oil and gas industry companies. Now that they control both the Congress and the White House, that type of behavior which they railed against now seems to be acceptable.